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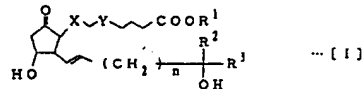
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(54) 【発明の名称】 遺伝子発現誘導剤

(57) 【要約】

【目的】 粥状動脈硬化症、関節リウマチ等の血中モノサイトの病巣への集積を特徴とする疾患の予防および治療に有効な薬剤を見出す。

【構成】 下記式で表されるプロスタグランジンE<sub>1</sub>誘導体を含有するMCP-1遺伝子発現誘導剤。



〔式中、R<sup>1</sup> は水素原子、C<sub>1</sub> ~ C<sub>10</sub> アルキル基または 1 当量のカチオンを表し、R<sup>2</sup> は水素原子またはメチル基を表し、R<sup>3</sup> は C<sub>1</sub> ~ C<sub>10</sub> アルキル基または C<sub>1</sub> ~ C<sub>8</sub> シクロアルキル基を表す。n は 0 または 1 を表し、X、Y は -CH<sub>2</sub> - を表すか、または硫黄原子を表すか、X、Y 同時に硫黄原子であることはない。〕



する報告はない。

【0008】

【発明が解決しようとする課題】本発明が解決しようとする課題は、例えばMCP-1/MCAF等のモノサイト遊走因子遺伝子の発現を誘導する薬剤を見出すことである。

【0009】

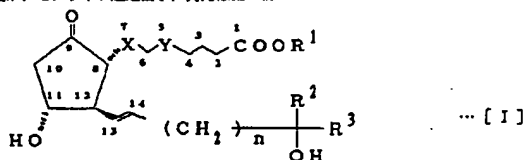
【課題を解決するための手段】本発明者らは、鋭意研究を重ねた結果、プロスタグランジンE<sub>2</sub>類またはその薬理的に許容し得る塩が、モノサイト遊走因子、例えばM\*10

\*CP-1/MCAFの遺伝子の発現誘導活性を有しており、モノサイトの病巣への集積が認められることのある各種疾病、例えば粥状動脈硬化症、関節リウマチ、変形性関節炎、気管支喘息、メラノーマ等の悪性腫瘍等の治療剤及び/または予防剤として有用な医薬化合物であることを見出し、本発明を完成するに至った。

【0010】すなわち本発明は、下記式【I】

【0011】

【化2】



【0012】【式中、R<sup>1</sup>は水素原子、C<sub>1</sub>～C<sub>18</sub>の直鎖状あるいは分枝状のアルキル基または1当量のカチオンを表す。ここで、R<sup>1</sup>が1当量のカチオンを表す場合には、式中-COO部分は、1の負電荷を有している。R<sup>2</sup>は水素原子またはメチル基を表し、R<sup>3</sup>はC<sub>1</sub>～C<sub>18</sub>の直鎖状あるいは分枝状のアルキル基またはC<sub>1</sub>～C<sub>18</sub>のシクロアルキル基を表し、nは0または1を表す。X、Yは-CH<sub>2</sub>-を表すかまたは硫黄原子を表すが、XY同時に硫黄原子であることはない。】で表されるプロスタグランジンE<sub>2</sub>類及び/またはその鏡像体を活性成分として含有するモノサイト遊走因子遺伝子発現誘導剤である。

【0013】上記式【I】において、R<sub>1</sub>は水素原子、C<sub>1</sub>～C<sub>18</sub>の直鎖状あるいは分枝状のアルキル基または1当量のカチオンを表す。C<sub>1</sub>～C<sub>18</sub>のアルキル基としては、例えばメチル、エチル、n-プロピル、iso-プロピル、n-ブチル、sec-ブチル、tert-ブチル、n-ペンチル、n-ヘキシル、n-ヘプチル、n-オクチル、n-ノニル、n-デシル基等のものをあげることができる。これらの中でも水素原子またはC<sub>1</sub>～C<sub>4</sub>アルキル基が好ましく、特に水素原子、メチル基が好ましい。

【0014】1当量のカチオンとしては例えば、N a<sup>+</sup>、K<sup>+</sup>などのアルカリ金属カチオン；1/2 C a<sup>2+</sup>、1/2 Mg<sup>2+</sup>、1/3 Al<sup>3+</sup>などの2価もしくは3価の金属カチオン；アンモニウムイオン、テトラメチルアンモニウムイオンなどのアンモニウムカチオンなどが挙げられる。

【0015】上記式【I】において、R<sup>2</sup>は水素原子またはメチル基を表す。R<sup>3</sup>が水素原子の場合はnは0であることが好ましく、またR<sup>3</sup>がメチル基の場合はnは1であることが好ましい。

【0016】上記式【I】において、R<sup>3</sup>がC<sub>1</sub>～C<sub>18</sub>、

の直鎖状あるいは分枝状のアルキル基を表す場合としては、例えばメチル、エチル、n-プロピル、iso-プロピル、n-ブチル、sec-ブチル、tert-ブチル、n-ペンチル、n-ヘキシル、n-ヘプチル、n-オクチル、n-ノニル、n-デシル、1-メチルペンチル、1-メチルヘキシル、1,1-ジメチルペンチル、2-メチルペンチル、2-メチルヘキシル、5-メチルヘキシル、2,5-ジメチルヘキシル基等のものをあげることができる。これらの中でもC<sub>1</sub>～C<sub>4</sub>アルキル基が好ましく、特にn-ブチル、n-ペンチル、n-ヘキシル、(2R)-2-メチルヘキシル、(2S)-2-メチルヘキシルあるいは2-メチルヘキシル基が好ましい。

【0017】R<sup>3</sup>がC<sub>1</sub>～C<sub>4</sub>のシクロアルキル基を表す場合には、シクロプロピル、シクロブチル、シクロペンチル、シクロヘキシル、シクロヘプチル、シクロオクチル基等が挙げられ、なかでもシクロペンチル、シクロヘキシル基が好ましく挙げられる。

【0018】上記式【I】においてnが0で、15位の炭素が不斉炭素である場合には、その立体配置はS配置が好ましく、またnが1で、16位の炭素が不斉炭素である場合には、その立体配置はS配置、R配置いずれでもよいが、より好ましくはS配置である。

【0019】また、上記式【I】における13位の炭素と14位の炭素間の二重結合に関する立体配置は、E配置である。

【0020】上記式【I】で表されるプロスタグランジンE<sub>2</sub>類の8位、11位、12位の立体配置は天然のプロスタグランジンE<sub>2</sub>と同一である。本発明に係るプロスタグランジンE<sub>2</sub>類はこうした立体配置であるもの、

またはその鏡像体、あるいはそれらの任意の割合の混合物である。もっとも、こうした立体配置をもつプロスタ

グランジンE<sub>2</sub>類とジアステレオマーの混合物があるプロ



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0<sup>4</sup>個/mlになるように懸濁した。次にこの細胞懸濁液を、96ウェルプレートに、1ウェル当たり200μlずつ分注し、次いで各ウェルにプロスタグランジンE<sub>1</sub>溶液を最終濃度10<sup>-4</sup>M、10<sup>-5</sup>M、10<sup>-6</sup>Mおよび10<sup>-7</sup>Mになるように2μlずつ添加し、5%CO<sub>2</sub>インキュベータにて37℃、30分間培養した。その後リボリサッカライド (LPS, E. coli 0111:B4, CALBIOCHEM社より購入) 水溶液を最終濃度1μg/mlになるように2μlずつ添加し、さらに5%CO<sub>2</sub>インキュベータにて37℃、24時間培養した。

【0027】その後、培養細胞をピペッティングにより回収し、12,000rpm、30秒間の遠心操作にて細胞ペレットとした後、RNA抽出用試薬、RNAzol B [登録商標、コスモバイオ (株)] を用いて、P. Chomczynski らの方法 (Analytical Biochem., 第162巻、156~159, 1987) に従い、RNAを抽出した。

【0028】次にThomas Lion らの方法 (Analytical Biochemistry 第188巻、335~337, 1990年) に準じ、DIG-dUTP [ジゴキシゲニンデオキシウリジン3リン酸、ペーリンガ・マンハイム・山之内\*

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\* (株) 製] を添加した基質を用い、cDNAを合成した後、PCR法によってヒトMCP-1 mRNA由来cDNAを増幅した。なお、用いたDNAプライマーは、公知のヒトMCP-1のcDNA配列 (T. Yoshimuraら、FEBS LETTERS 第244巻、487~493頁、1989年参照) に基づいて作製した5'-AAA GTCTCTGCCGCCCTTCTCTGおよび5'-T TGGGTTTGCTTGTCAGGTGであり、282bp長を増幅し得るものである。

10 【0029】増幅したサンプルをアガロースゲル電気泳動後、ナイロン膜にブロッティングし、得られたナイロン膜にアルカリフォスファターゼ標識抗DIG抗体 [ペーリンガ・マンハイム・山之内 (株) 製] を反応させた後、化学発光基質Lumi-PPD530 [ペーリンガ・マンハイム・山之内 (株) 製] を添加し、30分経過後、X線フィルムに20分間感光させた。それをデンストメーターにかけ、OD650nmを測定して得られたピーク面積を、MCP-1遺伝子発現量として、表1に示した。

【0030】

【表1】

細胞培養条件	MCP-1遺伝子発現量
LPS無添加	5.3
LPS添加	9.6
LPS添加+PGE <sub>1</sub> 10 <sup>-5</sup> M	41.3
LPS添加+PGE <sub>1</sub> 10 <sup>-6</sup> M	46.2
LPS添加+PGE <sub>1</sub> 10 <sup>-7</sup> M	44.6
LPS添加+PGE <sub>1</sub> 10 <sup>-8</sup> M	43.8

【0031】表1に見るとおり、プロスタグランジンE<sub>1</sub>は、最終濃度10<sup>-4</sup>M~10<sup>-8</sup>Mにおいて、MCP-1遺伝子の発現を4~5倍誘導する活性を有している。

【0032】

【実施例2】プロスタグランジンE<sub>1</sub>の代わりに試験化合物1 (15-デオキシ-16-ヒドロキシ-16-メ

チル-7-チアプロスタグランジンE<sub>1</sub>: メチルエステル) を用いて実施例1と全く同様の試験を行なった結果を表2に示す。

【0033】

【表2】

細胞培養条件	MCP-1遺伝子発現量
LPS無添加	4.9
LPS添加	10.2
LPS添加+試験化合物1 10 <sup>-5</sup> M	43.3
LPS添加+試験化合物1 10 <sup>-6</sup> M	44.8
LPS添加+試験化合物1 10 <sup>-7</sup> M	45.7
LPS添加+試験化合物1 10 <sup>-8</sup> M	42.1

【0034】

【実施例3】プロスタグランジンE<sub>1</sub>の代わりに、試験化合物2(17R)-17,20-ジメチル-7-チアプロスタグランジンE<sub>1</sub>メチルエステル、試験化合物3(16S)-15-デオキシ-16-ヒドロキシ\*

\*-16-メチル-5-チアプロスタグランジンE<sub>1</sub>メチルエステルを用いて、実施例1と全く同様の試験を行った結果を表3に示す。

【0035】

【表3】

細胞培養条件	MCP-1遺伝子発現量
LPS無添加	3.8
LPS添加	5.7
LPS添加+試験化合物2( $10^{-8}$ M)	22.3
LPS添加+試験化合物3( $10^{-8}$ M)	23.8

【0036】

【実施例4】実施例1に記載した実施条件において、LPS添加をしない点のみ異なる操作を行なった結果を表4に示す。LPS非添加の場合においても、プロスタグランジンE<sub>1</sub>がMCP-1遺伝子発現を誘導する活性を有することがわかる。

【0037】

【表4】

細胞培養条件	MCP-1遺伝子発現量
無添加	4.8
PGE <sub>1</sub> 添加 $10^{-6}$ M	22.3
PGE <sub>1</sub> 添加 $10^{-7}$ M	19.8
PGE <sub>1</sub> 添加 $10^{-8}$ M	21.7

【0038】

【発明の効果】本発明の遺伝子発現誘導剤は、粥状動脈硬化症、関節リウマチ、変形性関節炎さらにはメラノーマ等の悪性腫瘍などの、血中モノサイトの病巣への集積が認められることのある疾患の予防、治療剤として使用することができる。

B1

Japanese Kokai Patent Application No. Hei 7[1995]-53382

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Job No.: 6183-82163

Ref.: 21509-042-061

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AGENT FOR INDUCING GENE EXPRESSION

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[There are no amendments to this patent.]

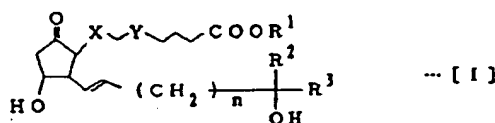
### Abstract

#### Objective

To discover an effective drug for preventing or treating diseases that are characterized by accumulation of monocytes at lesions, such as atherosclerosis and osteoarthritis, for example.

#### Constitution

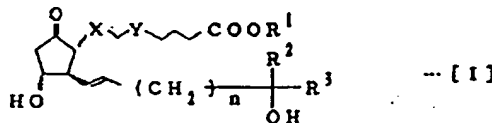
The MCP-1 agent for inducing gene expression containing the prostaglandin E<sub>1</sub> derivative expressed by the formula below:



(in the formula, R<sup>1</sup> is hydrogen, a straight or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkyl group or 1-equivalent cation; R<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen or a methyl group; R<sup>3</sup> is a straight or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkyl, or C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl group; *n* represents either 0 or 1; X and Y are either -CH<sub>2</sub>- or a sulfur atom, but they cannot both be sulfur atoms).

### Claims

1. Agent for inducing expression of the monocyte chemotactic factor gene, containing as the active ingredient the prostaglandin E<sub>1</sub> and/or enantiomer thereof expressed by formula (1) below:



(in the formula, R<sup>1</sup> is hydrogen, a straight or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkyl group or 1-equivalent cation; R<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen or a methyl group; R<sup>3</sup> is a straight or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkyl, or a C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl group; *n* represents either 0 or 1; X and Y are either -CH<sub>2</sub>- or a sulfur atom, but they cannot both be sulfur atoms).

2. The agent for inducing expression of the monocyte chemotactic factor gene according to Claim 1 above wherein the monocyte chemotactic factor is MCP-1/MCAF.

3. The agent for inducing expression of the monocyte chemotactic factor gene according to Claim 1 or 2 above wherein  $R^1$  of formula (1) above is hydrogen or methyl.

4. The agent for inducing expression of the monocyte chemotactic factor gene according to Claims 1 through 3 above wherein  $R^2$  of formula (1) above is hydrogen.

5. The agent for inducing expression of the monocyte chemotactic factor gene according to Claims 1 through 4 above wherein, for formula (1) above,  $n$  is 0 and  $R^3$  is a pentyl group or a 2-methylhexyl group.

6. The agent for inducing expression of the monocyte chemotactic factor gene according to Claims 1 through 5 above wherein the carbon bonded to  $R^2$  of formula (1) above is an asymmetric carbon, and the absolute configuration is S.

7. The agent for inducing expression of the monocyte chemotactic factor gene according to Claims 1 through 3 above wherein  $R^2$  of formula (1) above is a methyl group.

8. The agent for inducing expression of the monocyte chemotactic factor gene according to Claims 1 through 4 or Claim 7 above wherein, for formula (1) above,  $n$  is 1 and  $R^3$  is a butyl group.

#### Detailed explanation of the invention

[0001]

##### Industrial application field

The invention pertains to an agent for inducing gene expression. More specifically, it pertains to a agent for inducing expression of the monocyte chemotactic factor gene containing prostaglandin  $E_1$  as the active ingredient.

[0002]

##### Prior art

Prostaglandins have various physiological uses such as in suppressing platelet aggregation, vasodilatory hypotensive action, inhibition of gastric acid secretion, relaxing the smooth muscle, cytoprotection, and diuretic action, for example; it is an effective compound for treating or preventing myocardial infarction, angina pectoris, arteriosclerosis, hypertension, duodenal ulcers, induction of labor, or abortion, for example. Of these, prostaglandin  $E_1$  has a powerful platelet aggregation action and vasodilatory action, and is already in clinical use.

[0003]

Of the compounds disclosed in the detailed explanation of the invention, 7-thiaprostaglandin E<sub>1</sub> has already been disclosed by the applicant; it has been disclosed that this compound shows activity in preventing metastasis of malignant tumors, as well as antiarteriosclerotic, antimyocardial infarction, antiangina, and antithrombogenic activities due to its platelet aggregation inhibitory action, hypotensive action, and vasodilatory action (Japanese Kokai Patent Application No. Sho 58[1983]-110562). On the other hand, 7-thiaprostaglandin E<sub>1</sub> has been useful in diabetic neuropathies (Japanese Kokai Patent Application No. Sho 64[1989]-52721).

[0004]

Of the compounds disclosed in the invention, 5-thiaprostaglandin E<sub>1</sub> derivatives are also known compounds that have been previously disclosed by the applicant; they have excellent antitumor activity (Japanese Kokai Patent Application No. Sho 61[1986]-233664).

[0005]

On the other hand, monocyte chemotactic factors, for example MCP-1/MCAF, are produced by T-lymphocytes, macrophages, smooth muscle cells, fibroblasts, and vascular endothelial cells, for example. There is a specific chemotactic factor for monocytes, and it is known to be a factor that has a central relation to the promotion and control of the inflammation/immune response at a lesion by causing monocytes in the blood to concentrate around a malignant tumor such as a melanoma, for example, or at the site of atherosclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, or ossification (see, for example, Loenard, E. J., and Yoshimura, T. (1990) *Immunology Today*, Vol. 11, pp. 97-101; Nelken, N.A. et al., *The Journal of Clinical Investigation* (1991), Vol. 88, pp. 1121-1127; Koch, A. E. et al., *The Journal of Clinical Investigation* (1992), Vol. 90, pp. 772-779; Hanazawa, S., et al., *The Journal of Biological Chemistry* (1993), Vol. 268, pp. 9526-9532; and Graves, D. T. et al., *American Journal of Pathology* (1992), Vol. 140, pp. 9-14).

[0006]

For this reason, it is hoped that this agent for inducing gene expression will be useful as an agent for treating and/or preventing atherosclerosis, articular rheumatism, osteoarthritis or degenerative arthritis, for example, but there are no reports of lower molecular compounds that have this property of inducing gene expression.

[0007]

It is also known that prostaglandin E-type compounds affect gene expression (see, for example, Phipps, R.P. et al., *Immunology Today* (1991), Vol. 12, pp. 349-352; or Martin, C.A., et al., *Cellular Immunology* (1991), Vol. 135, pp. 245-258); however there are no reports that monocyte chemotactic factors, such as MCP-1/MCAF, have the ability to induce gene expression.

[0008]

Problem to be solved by the present invention

The problem to be solved by the present invention is the discovery of an agent for inducing the expression of monocyte chemotactic factor genes, such as MCP-1/MCAF, for example.

[0009]

Means to solve the problem

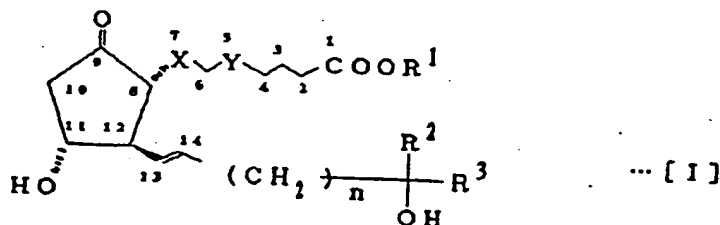
As a result of conducting a series of diligent investigations, the inventors discovered that prostaglandin E<sub>1</sub> or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt has the effect of inducing expression of the gene for monocyte chemotactic factors, such as MCP-1/MCAF, for example, and that it is a useful medical compound as a remedy and/or preventative for diseases in which monocytes are observed to accumulate at a lesion, such as atherosclerosis, articular rheumatism, osteoarthritis, bronchial asthma, and melanoma, for example, thereby arriving at the present invention.

[0010]

More specifically, the invention is an agent for inducing expression of the monocyte chemotactic factor gene containing as the active ingredient prostaglandin E<sub>1</sub> or enantiomer thereof expressed by formula (1) below:

[0011]

Structure 2



[0012]

[In the formula,  $R^1$  is hydrogen, a straight or branched  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl group or 1-equivalent cation. When  $R^1$  is a 1-equivalent cation, the component expressed by  $-COO$  in the formula has a negative electrical charge of 1.  $R^2$  is hydrogen or a methyl group.  $R^3$  is a straight or branched  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl, or  $C_3$ - $C_8$  cycloalkyl group.  $n$  represents either 0 or 1. X and Y are either  $-CH_2-$  or a sulfur atom, but they cannot both be sulfur atoms.]

[0013]

In the aforementioned formula (I),  $R^1$  represents a hydrogen atom, a straight or branched  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl group or 1-equivalent cation. The  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl group may be methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, sec-butyl, tert-butyl, n-pentyl, n-hexyl, n-heptyl, n-octyl, n-nonyl, or n-decyl, for example. Best results are obtained when  $R^1$  is a hydrogen atom or a  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl group, preferably a hydrogen atom or a methyl group.

[0014]

The 1-equivalent cation may be  $Na^+$ ,  $K^+$ , or other alkali metal cations;  $1/2 Ca^{2+}$ ,  $1/2 Mg^{2+}$ ,  $1/3 Al^{3+}$ , and other [stoichiometric amounts of] bivalent or trivalent metal cations; ammonium ion, ions of tetramethyl ammonium, and cations compounds of other ammonium for example.

[0015]

In formula (1) above,  $R^2$  represents a hydrogen atom or methyl group. When  $R^2$  is hydrogen it is preferred that  $n$  be 0. When  $R^2$  is methyl it is preferred that  $n$  be 1.

[0016]

When  $R^3$  of formula (1) above represents a  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  straight or branched alkyl, it may be methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, sec-butyl, tert-butyl, n-pentyl, n-hexyl, n-heptyl, n-octyl, n-nonyl, n-decyl, 1-methylpentyl, 1-methylhexyl, 1,1-dimethylpentyl, 2-methylpentyl, 2-methylhexyl, 5-methylhexyl, or 2,5-dimethylhexyl, for example. Best results are obtained with  $C_3$ - $C_8$  alkyl groups, preferably n-butyl, n-pentyl, n-hexyl, (2R)-2-methylhexyl, (2S)-2-methylhexyl, or 2-methylhexyl.

[0017]

When  $R^3$  represents a  $C_3$ - $C_8$  cycloalkyl group, it may be cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, cycloheptyl, or cyclooctyl, for example. Best results are obtained with cyclopentyl and cyclohexyl.

[0018]

When  $n$  in formula (1) above represents 0, the carbon atom in position 15 will be assymmetric; preferably the configuration in this case is S. When  $n$  is 1 and the carbon in position 16 is assymmetric, the configuration may be either S or R, preferably S.

[0019]

The configuration of the double bond between the carbon atoms at positions 13 and 14 in formula (1) above is E.

[0020]

The configurations at positions 8, 11, and 12 of the prostaglandin  $E_1$  expressed by formula (1) above are identical to natural prostaglandin  $E_1$ . The invented prostaglandin  $E_1$  has these configurations or in the form of enantiomers thereof, or any mixture of these. Indeed, prostaglandin  $E_1$  having this configuration, prostaglandins  $E_1$  related to the diastereomers thereof, and any mixture thereof also have the effect of inducing expression of the gene for monocyte chemotactic factors, such as MCP-1/MCAF, for example.

[0021]

The following may be mentioned as preferred concrete examples of the prostaglandin  $E_1$  used in the invention:

- (1) prostaglandin  $E_1$
- (2) 7-thiaprostaglandin  $E_1$
- (3) 16-methyl-7-thiaprostaglandin  $E_1$
- (4) 17,20-dimethyl-7-prostaglandin  $E_1$
- (5) the (17R) form of Compound 4
- (6) the (17S) form of Compound 4
- (7) 20-methyl-7-thiaprostaglandin  $E_1$
- (8) 15-methyl-7-thiaprostaglandin  $E_1$
- (9) 16,16-dimethyl-7-thiaprostaglandin  $E_1$
- (10) 16,17,18,19,20-pentanol-15-cyclopentyl-7-thiaprostaglandin  $E_1$
- (11) 16,17,18,19,20-pentanol-15-cyclohexyl-7-thiaprostaglandin  $E_1$

- (12) 15-deoxy-16-hydroxy-16-methyl-7-thiaprostaglandin E<sub>1</sub>
- (13) the (16R) form of Compound 12
- (14) the (16S) form of Compound 12
- (15) 5-thiaprostaglandin E<sub>1</sub>
- (16) 16-methyl-5-thiaprostaglandin E<sub>1</sub>
- (17) 17,20-dimethyl-5-thiaprostaglandin E<sub>1</sub>
- (18) the (17R) form of Compound 17
- (19) the (17S) form of Compound 17
- (20) 20-methyl-5-thiaprostaglandin E<sub>1</sub>
- (21) 15-methyl-5-thiaprostaglandin E<sub>1</sub>
- (22) 16,16-dimethyl-5-thiaprostaglandin E<sub>1</sub>
- (23) 16,17,18,19,20-pentanol-15-cyclopentyl-5-thiaprostaglandin E<sub>1</sub>
- (24) 16,17,18,19,20-pentanol-15-cyclohexyl-5-thiaprostaglandin E<sub>1</sub>
- (25) 15-deoxy-16-hydroxy-16-methyl-5-thiaprostaglandin E<sub>1</sub>
- (26) the (16R) form of Compound 25
- (27) the (16S) form of Compound 25
- (28) the methyl esters of Compounds 1-27
- (29) the ethyl esters of Compounds 1-27
- (30) the tert-butyl esters of Compounds 1-27
- (31) the sodium salts of Compounds 1-27
- (32) the potassium salts of Compounds 1-27
- (33) the magnesium salts of Compounds 1-27
- (34) the ammonium salts of Compounds 1-27

[0022]

Of the invented prostaglandin E<sub>1</sub> compounds, prostaglandin E<sub>1</sub> is already publicly known. 7-thiaprostaglandin E<sub>1</sub> is manufactured by a process invented separately by the applicant. For example, a detailed description is given in Japanese Kokai Patent Application Nos. Sho 57[1982]-108065 and Sho 58[1983]-110562. 5-thiaprostaglandin E<sub>1</sub> may be manufactured by a process invented separately by the applicant. For example, a detailed description is given in Japanese Kokai Patent Application Nos. Sho 58[1983]-198466, Sho 59[1984]-122462 and Sho 61-233664 [1989].

[0023]

The invented prostaglandin E<sub>1</sub>, as shown in the application examples, has been discovered to have an effect in inducing gene expression of monocyte chemotactic factors, such



as MCP-1/MCAF, for example. Accordingly, if a prostaglandin  $E_1$  having this effect is administered to the body, it acts upon various types of cells including T-lymphocytes, macrophages, smooth muscle cells, fibroblasts, and vascular epithelial cells, so it is possible to induce the production of monocyte chemotactic factor in these cells. As a result, said cells will act with the effect of causing migration/activation of monocytes in the blood, followed by local concentration of the monocytes, or they can control the local inflammation/immune response. By inducing the production of monocyte chemotactic factors, such as MCP-1/MCAF, for example, it is possible to alter the degree of activation and chemotactic capability of monocytes.

[0024]

Therefore the invented agent for inducing expression of the monocyte chemotactic factor gene can be used as an agent for treating and/or preventing various diseases in which the aggregation of monocytes at lesions has been observed.

[0025]

The following application examples show that prostaglandin  $E_1$  is an agent for inducing expression of the gene for monocyte migration factor, such as MCP-1/MCAF, for example. The invention is not limited by these application examples in any way.

[0026]

#### Application Example 1

THP-1 cells (ATCC Registration Number TIB203) derived from peripheral blood of a patient with acute monocytic leukemia were suspended to  $1 \times 10^6$  cells/mL in RPMI 1640 medium to which had been added 10% fetal calf serum. This cell suspension was then poured at 200  $\mu$ L/well into 96-well plates. Then 2  $\mu$ L of prostaglandin  $E_1$  solution were added to each plate to reach final concentrations of  $10^{-5}$  M,  $10^{-6}$  M,  $10^{-7}$  M, and  $10^{-8}$  M, and this was cultured for 30 min at 37°C in a 5% CO<sub>2</sub> incubator. Then 2- $\mu$ L aliquots of lipopolysaccharide (LPS, *E. coli* 0111:B4, purchased from CalBioChem) solution were added to reach a final concentration of 1  $\mu$ g/ml. This was again incubated for 24 h at 37°C in a 5% CO<sub>2</sub> incubator.

[0027]

The cultured cells were then recovered by pipette, centrifuged for 30 sec at 12,000 rpm and formed into cell pellets. Using the RNA extraction agent RNazolB (registered trademark, Cosmo Bio Co. Ltd.) the RNA was extracted according to the method of P. Chomczynsk et al. (*Analytical Biochem.*, Vol. 162, pp. 156-159, 1987).

[0028]

Then, following the method of Thomas Lion *et al.* (*Analytical Biochemistry*, Vol. 188, 335-337, 1990), a substrate added DIG-dUTP (digitoxigenin dioxymuridine triphosphate, manufactured by Boeringer Mannheim Yamanouchi K.K.) was used and cDNA was synthesized. Then the cDNA derived from human MCP-1 mRNA was amplified by PCR. The DNA primers used were 5'-AAAGTCTCTGCCGCCCTTCTG and 5'-TTGGGTTTGCTTGTCAGGTG based upon publicly known 282-bp human MCP-1 cDNA sequences (refer to T. Yoshimura *et al.*, *Febs Letters*, Vol. 244, pp. 487-493, 1989).

[0029]

The amplified sample was subjected to agarose gel electrophoresis and blotted to a nylon membrane. The nylon membrane was allowed to react with alkaline phosphatase-labeled anti-DIG antibody (manufactured by Boeringer Mannheim Yamanouchi K.K.). Chemiluminescent substrate Lumi-PPD530 (manufactured by Boeringer Mannheim Yamanouchi K.K.) was added, and after 30 min this was used to expose X-ray film for 20 min. This was placed in a densitometer and measurement was taken at OD 650 nm; the resulting peak surface areas are shown in Table 1 as the amounts of MCP-1 gene expression.

[0030]

Table 1

① 細胞培養条件	MCP-1遺伝子発現量②
③ LPS無添加	5.3
④ LPS添加	9.6
⑤ LPS添加+PGE <sub>1</sub> 10 <sup>-5</sup> M	41.3
⑥ LPS添加+PGE <sub>1</sub> 10 <sup>-6</sup> M	46.2
⑦ LPS添加+PGE <sub>1</sub> 10 <sup>-7</sup> M	44.6
⑧ LPS添加+PGE <sub>1</sub> 10 <sup>-8</sup> M	43.8

Key: 1 Cell culturing conditions  
 2 Amount of MCP-1 gene expression  
 3 No LPS added

- 4 LPS added
- 5 LPS added + PGE<sub>1</sub> 10<sup>-5</sup> M
- 6 LPS added + PGE<sub>1</sub> 10<sup>-6</sup> M
- 7 LPS added + PGE<sub>1</sub> 10<sup>-7</sup> M
- 8 LPS added + PGE<sub>1</sub> 10<sup>-8</sup> M

[0031]

As shown in Table 1, at a final concentration of 10<sup>-5</sup> M through 10<sup>-8</sup> M, prostaglandin E<sub>1</sub> has the effect of inducing 4-5 times the expression of the MCP-1 gene.

[0032]

### Application Example 2

An experiment identical to that of Application Example 1 was performed with the exception that Synthesis Compound 1 (15-deoxy-16-hydroxy-16-methyl-7-thiaprostaglandin E<sub>1</sub> methyl ester) was used instead of prostaglandin E<sub>1</sub>. The results are shown in Table 2.

[0033]

Table 2

③	① 細胞培養条件	MCP-1遺伝子発現量	②
③	LPS無添加	4.9	
④	LPS添加	10.2	
⑤	LPS添加+試験化合物1 10 <sup>-5</sup> M	43.3	
⑥	LPS添加+試験化合物1 10 <sup>-6</sup> M	44.8	
⑦	LPS添加+試験化合物1 10 <sup>-7</sup> M	45.7	
⑧	LPS添加+試験化合物1 10 <sup>-8</sup> M	42.1	

- Key:
- 1 Cell culturing conditions
  - 2 Amount of MCP-1 gene expression
  - 3 No LPS added
  - 4 LPS added
  - 5 LPS added + Synthesis Compound 1 10<sup>-5</sup> M
  - 6 LPS added + Synthesis Compound 1 10<sup>-6</sup> M
  - 7 LPS added + Synthesis Compound 1 10<sup>-7</sup> M

8 LPS added + Synthesis Compound 1  $10^{-8}$  M

[0034]

Application Example 3

An experiment identical to that of Application Example 1 was performed with the exception that Synthesis Compound 2 ((17R)-17,20-dimethyl-7-thiaprostaglandin E<sub>1</sub> methyl ester) and Synthesis Compound 3 ((16S)-15-deoxy-16-hydroxy-16-methyl-5-thiaprostaglandin E<sub>1</sub> methyl ester) were used instead of prostaglandin E<sub>1</sub>. The results are shown in Table 3.

[0035]

Table 3

③	細胞培養条件 ①	MCP-1 遺伝子発現量 ②
③	LPS無添加	3.8
④	LPS添加	5.7
⑤	LPS添加+試験化合物2 ( $10^{-8}$ M)	22.3
⑥	LPS添加+試験化合物3 ( $10^{-8}$ M)	23.8

- Key: 1 Cell culturing conditions  
 2 Amount of MCP-1 gene expression  
 3 No LPS added  
 4 LPS added  
 5 LPS added + Synthesis Compound 2  $10^{-8}$  M  
 6 LPS added + Synthesis Compound 3  $10^{-8}$  M

[0036]

Application Example 4

Table 4 shows the results obtained under the experimental conditions described for Application Example 1 with the exception that no LPS was added. Even when no LPS is added, it is clear that prostaglandin E<sub>1</sub> has the effect of inducing MCP-1 gene expression.

[0037]

Table 4

③	① 細胞培養条件	MCP-1 遺伝子発現量	②
③	無添加	4.8	
④	PGE <sub>1</sub> 添加 10 <sup>-6</sup> M	22.3	
⑤	PGE <sub>1</sub> 添加 10 <sup>-7</sup> M	19.8	
⑥	PGE <sub>1</sub> 添加 10 <sup>-8</sup> M	21.7	

Key: 1 Cell culturing conditions  
 2 Amount of MCP-1 gene expression  
 3 Nothing added  
 4 PGE<sub>1</sub> 10<sup>-6</sup> M  
 5 PGE<sub>1</sub> 10<sup>-7</sup> M  
 6 PGE<sub>1</sub> 10<sup>-8</sup> M

[0038]

## Effect of the invention

The invented agent for inducing gene expression can be used as an agent for preventing or treating diseases in which monocytes are observed to aggregate at a lesion, such as atherosclerosis, articular rheumatism, osteoarthritis and malignant tumors such as melanoma.